

*J. B. Hallman*  
1877

MINUTES

OF THE

Sixty-First Session

OF THE

Mississippi Annual Conference

OF THE

Methodist Episcopal Church South.

HELD AT

Natchez, Miss., Nov. 29, Dec. 4, 1876.

BISHOP W. M. WIGHTMAN, PRESIDING.

NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI:  
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# THE NATCHEZ WEEKLY DEMOCRAT

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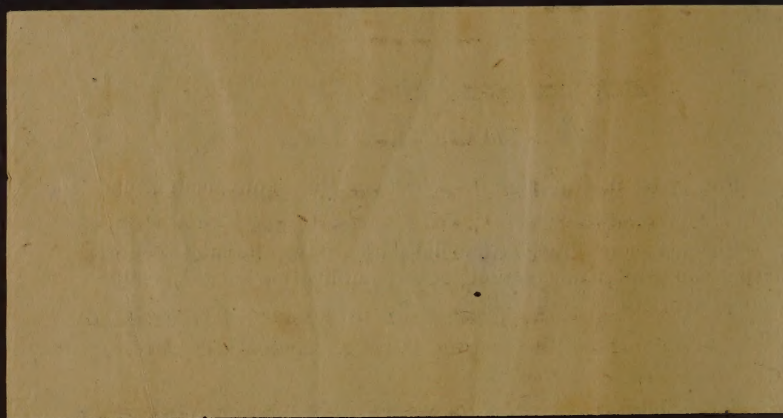
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## Memoranda.

For Nov. 9, on page 1, wherever the same occurs, read Nov. 29.

For any errors in the financial part of the statistical report neither the printer nor committee on publication is responsible—copy was strictly followed.



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## PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

# Mississippi Annual Conference.

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Sixty-first Session—Nov. 9–Dec. 4, 1876.

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The sixty-first session of the Mississippi Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was begun and held in the city of Natchez, Mississippi, Nov. 9–Dec. 4, 1876, Bishop William May Wightman presiding.

The presiding Bishop read the 10th chapter of Romans, the Conference united in singing the 272d hymn, and Rev. John G. Jones led in prayer.

The following clerical members were present during the session, their names being recorded according to the date of their admission, readmission or transfer into this Conference, viz:

### CLERICAL MEMBERS PRESENT.

J. G. Jones, W. H. Watkins, J. Nicholson, J. L. Forsyth, H. H. Montgomery, J. A. Godfrey, A. B. Nicholson, J. A. B. Jones, J. H. Shelton, W. B. Hines, E. A. Flowers, D. W. Dillehay, B. Jones, G. F. Thompson, H. P. Lewis, C. G. Andrews, W. B. Lewis, N. B. Young, W. Finn, L. Kendall, H. F. Johnson, E. H. Mounger, I. B. Robertson, W. W. Hurst, D. Merchant, W. L. C. Hunnicutt, W. E. Ballard, R. B. Downer,

*unseen*

F. M. Williams, J. A. Ellis, W. E. M. Linfield, F. M. Featherstun, A. B. Stewart, L. P. Meador, A. M. Campbell, J. T. Heard, J. C. Brogan, T. Y. Armstrong, W. H. Leith, C. B. Galloway, R. D. Norsworthy, C. F. Gillespie, P. A. Johnson, J. M. Weems, R. Bradley, Ransom J. Jones, J. H. Holland, T. B. Walden, J. S. Parker, J. W. Adkisson, J. J. Smylie, J. W. Sandell, W. C. Black, B. T. Pearson, T. Price, J. W. Ellison, J. B. K. Smith, J. W. McLaurin, C. C. Watkins, T. S. West, A. M. Barrington, D. C. Langford, T. B. Holloman, C. R. Benson, D. A. Little, J. Ritchey, L. R. Featherstun, R. S. Woodward, V. H. Nelson, B. R. Carradine, C. D. Cecil, R. T. Davis, W. W. Hopper.

Lay members from the several Districts were present, and participated in the proceedings as follows, viz:

#### LAY MEMBERS PRESENT.

L. D. Langford, J. T. Cameron, C. K. Marshall, T. L. Mellen, T. Reed, J. G. Guice, F. D. Brame, Thos. Garnett, Wiley Brown, C. S. Stewart, D. McRee, J. H. Thompson, W. M. Thornton, Irvin Miller, L. P. Brown.

C. G. Andrews was elected Secretary, J. A. B. Jones, Assistant; John T. Cameron, Recording Secretary; J. J. Smylie, Statistical Secretary.

The hours of 9 a. m. and 2 p. m. were fixed upon as the time of meeting and adjournment.

Committees upon the various interests of the Church were appointed as follows, viz:

ON PULPIT EXERCISES—F. M. Featherstun, W. L. C. Hunnicutt, T. L. Mellen.

ON EDUCATION—E. H. Mounger, H. F. Johnson, J. W. Adkisson, R. S. Woodward, I. B. Robertson, A. M. Campbell, R. D. Norsworthy, C. G. Andrews.

ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS—H. P. Lewis, J. T. Heard, D. Merchant, W. C. Black, B. Jones, L. P. Brown, T. B. Holloman, F. D. Brame.

ON THE STATE OF THE CHURCH—J. M. Weems, R. B. Downer, W. E. M. Linfield, W. W. Hurst, T. Y. Armstrong, J. G. Jones, J. Ritchey, J. W. McLaurin.

ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE—R. J. Jones, J. Lusk, J. J.

Smylie, F. M. Williams, D. A. Givens, T. L. Mellen, N. B. Young, George F. Thompson.

ON THE BIBLE CAUSE—B. T. Pearson, J. H. Shelton, L. Kendall, J. C. Brogan, J. B. K. Smith, W. H. Watkins, P. Howard, T. Garnett.

ON MEMOIRS—C. F. Gillespie, J. A. Ellis.

Rev. L. Parker, D. D., editor of the New Orleans Christian Advocate, was present, prosecuting the claims of his paper, and attending to the interests of the New Orleans Depository.

Rev. J. A. Ivey, of the Louisiana Conference, agent of the Southwestern Bible Society, addressed the Conference in behalf of that institution.

Rev. Jos. B. Stratton, D. D., Pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Natchez, and Rev. Dr. Freeman of the Baptist Church of New York, and Rev. Mr. Weeks, of the Presbyterian Church, were introduced to the Conference.

Communications from the Publishing House at Nashville; from Rev. T. O. Summers, D. D., book editor; from the Missionary Secretaries, and also from the various institutions of learning within the bounds of this Conference, were read and referred to the appropriate committees.

Conference resolved to sit with open doors during the regular examination of character of Elders.

FIRST QUESTION—Who are admitted on trial?

ANSWER—Clarence A. Powell, from the Yazoo Circuit; Benj. Franklin Jones, from the Fayette Circuit; D. M. Rush, in Deacon's orders, from the Jackson, La., and Pipkin Circuit; Thos. C. Bradford and Few Ball, from the Beauregard and Wesson Circuit; Wm. W. Simmons, from the Brandywine Circuit; Benton S. Rayner, from the Hickory Circuit; J. Perry Drake from Natchez Station, and Inman W. Cooper, from Brookhaven.

SECOND QUESTION—Who remain on trial.

ANSWER—Green W. Brown, Wm. D. Dominick, Malachi B. Sharbrough, Thos. W. Adams, Chas. J. Philips, the two latter to bring up the studies of the first year.

THIRD QUESTION—Who are discontinued?

ANSWER—D. W. McLean, J. Q. Hicks, C. W. Reed and H. B. Denham.

FOURTH QUESTION—Who are admitted into full connection?

ANSWER—V. Hicks Nelson, Beverly R. Carradine, Curtis D. Cecil, Ruffin T. Davis, Wm. W. Hopper.

FIFTH QUESTION—Who are re admitted?

ANSWER—None.

SIXTH QUESTION—Who are received by transfer from other Conferences.

ANSWER—Charles W. Calhoun, from the Alabama Conference.

SEVENTH QUESTION—Who are the Deacons of one year?

ANSWER—Duncan A. Little, Lewis R. Featherstun, John Ritchey, Daniel C. Langford, C. C. Watkins, J. S. Parker, and D. P. Bradford, and Alex. L. McBryde to bring up studies of the third year.

EIGHTH QUESTION—What traveling preachers are elected Deacons?

ANSWER—V. H. Nelson, B. R. Carradine, C. D. Cecil, R. T. Davis, W. W. Hopper.

NINTH QUESTION—What traveling preachers are ordained Deacons?

ANSWER—V. H. Nelson, B. R. Carradine, C. D. Cecil, R. T. Nelson, W. W. Hopper.

TENTH QUESTION—What local preachers are elected Deacons?

ANSWER—Tiff Foster, Wm. B. Gilbert, Thos. Chapman, Ervine Roberts and Charles W. Barrier.

ELEVENTH QUESTION—What traveling preachers are ordained Deacons?

ANSWER—T. Foster, W. B. Gilbert.

TWELFTH QUESTION—What traveling preachers are elected Elders?

ANSWER—J. W. Ellis, J. B. K. Smith, J. W. McLaurin, Ralph Bradley and Thos. B. Holloman.

THIRTEENTH QUESTION—What traveling preachers are ordained Elders?

ANSWER—J. W. Ellison, J. B. K. Smith, J. W. McLaurin, R. Bradley, T. B. Holloman.

FOURTEENTH QUESTION—What local preachers are elected Elders?

ANSWER—George Morrison.

FIFTEENTH QUESTION—What local preachers are ordained elders?

ANSWER—George Morrison.

SIXTEENTH QUESTION—Who are located this year?

ANSWER—J. S. Harris, H. J. Harris, C. R. Benson, W. W. Hopper.

SEVENTEENTH QUESTION—Who are supernumerary?

ANSWER—G. T. Vickers, C. C. Watkins, E. F. Mullins.

EIGHTEENTH QUESTION—Who are superannuated?

ANSWER—W. Spillman, J. G. Jones, B. Pipkin, G. B. Higginbotham, W. Finn, H. Copeland, L. Pearce, J. McKay, J. Nicholson, J. Shanks, A. Day, E. R. Strickland, D. A. J. Parker.

NINETEENTH QUESTION—What preachers have died during the year?

ANSWER—James Long.

### MEMOIR OF REV. JAMES LONG.

Rev. James Long, the subject of this memoir, was born April 24th, 1792, in Maryland, and departed this life January 27th, 1876, in Jones county, Mississippi, in the 84th year of his age. He joined the Methodist Church in his 16th or 17th year. He emigrated to the West at an early day. Brother Long joined the Methodist Protestant Church at its organization, or soon after, and was a faithful minister of that church until the union of the Mississippi Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church with the Mississippi Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in which he was received as a Superannuate and regularly received his proportion of the Conference collection, which was to him a God-send and by him thankfully received. Brother Long was a consistent Christian, at all times ready and willing to work for the Master.—He was an affectionate husband, a faithful father and a sure friend. He bore his last illness, which was of some month's standing, with Christian fortitude, and at last, full of days and faith, fell asleep in Jesus.

C. F. GILLESPIE.

TWENTIETH QUESTION—Are all the preachers blameless in their life and official administration?

ANSWER—Their names were called over one by one and their characters examined and passed. The name of Geo. W. Davidson was erased from the roll at his own request.

TWENTY-FIRST QUESTION—What is the number of local preachers and members in the several circuits, stations and missions of the Conference.

ANSWER—See statistical table in this pamphlet.

TWENTY-SECOND QUESTION—How many infants have been baptized during the year?

ANSWER—1014.

TWENTY-THIRD QUESTION—How many adults have been baptized during the year?

ANSWER—821.

TWENTY-FOURTH QUESTION—What is the number of Sunday Schools?

ANSWER—187.

TWENTY-FIFTH QUESTION—What is the number of Sunday School teachers?

ANSWER—1,163.

TWENTY-SIXTH QUESTION—What is the number of Sunday School scholars?

ANSWER—7,287.

TWENTY-SEVENTH QUESTION—What amount is necessary for the Bishops, the superannuated preachers, and the widows and orphans of preachers?

ANSWER—\$3,400.

TWENTY-EIGHTH QUESTION—What has been collected in the foregoing, and how has it been applied?

ANSWER—\$2,792 30. Appropriated to Bishops, \$900 65; to Conference claimants, \$1,791 65. For the disbursement of the latter fund see report of the Joint Board of Finance, in this pamphlet.

TWENTY-NINTH QUESTION—What has been contributed for Missions?

ANSWER—\$1,464 30 for Foreign Missions; \$1,514 50 for Domestic Missions. See report,

THIRTIETH QUESTION—Where shall the next session of this Conference be held?

ANSWER—At Jackson, Miss.

THIRTY-FIRST QUESTION—Where are the preachers stationed this year?

ANSWER—See page——of this pamphlet.

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The Committee on Education present the following report:

We remark that this matter of education is one which we, as a Christian body, cannot afford to disregard. The church's sphere of duty is large, comprehending all the varied interests of society. He who came to save souls, and who is also the Savior of the body, would not have us put a low estimate on the intellectual part in man. The great universities of the world have been founded and sustained by the Church of Christ. In the Mississippi Conference the subject of establishing Methodist schools in the boundaries of the Conference, engaged attention at an early date, and considerable expenditures for that purpose were made. Several institutions of learning were reared under our care, and accomplished great good. We must ourselves now carry on this work, for the church that is not awake to the educating of the people, is false to her trust, and consents to lag behind in the race. Another will surely take her crown.

As a Conference, we are doing something in this cause, but we do not come up to the full measure of our duty and opportunity. Yet it is a matter for congratulation that while everything is "locked in the paralysis of hard times," our schools are still successfully in operation.

### WHITWORTH FEMALE COLLEGE,

This institution, located at Brookhaven, Lincoln county, Miss., was never so prosperous and efficient as it is to-day. On its last annual catalogue are the names of pupils from four States.—There are now in attendance two hundred and ten pupils, of whom one hundred and seventeen board in the college. Another building is being erected to provide room for more boarders. Very soon the study hall, music and recitation rooms will be heated by steam. The improvements made during the year, and now in progress, will cost nearly \$10,000. The President makes the following practicable proposition to this Conference: "Whatever sums of money they may collect for the improve-

ment of the College buildings, or for the purchase of additional apparatus, will be credited on board bills."

We recommend the re-appointment of Rev. H. F. Johnson to the Presidency of this institution.

#### EAST MISSISSIPPI FEMALE COLLEGE

We are happy to report that the patronage of this College, at Meridian, Miss., is larger than at any previous period, one hundred pupils having been enrolled this session. A debt of \$2,500 was paid last year. Mrs. Mary Watts, of Newton, Miss., has donated to the College \$500 for the education of orphan girls, thus forming a nucleus of an endowment, which we hope will be largely increased. The Board of Trustees contemplate the erection of other buildings demanded by increased patronage. We recognize the proposition addressed to us by the Trustees, as furnishing our ministers with fair and easy educational opportunities, and hope for a large response.

we recommend that the Rev. J. w. Adkisson be re-appointed President.

#### PORT GIBSON COLLEGIATE ACADEMY.

This Academy is now completely equipped and working successfully. The course of study has been carefully arranged and is very full. The expenses of board and tuition have been reduced to the lowest remunerative figures. we heartily recommend this school to our people and to the public. Rev. J. A. B. Jones, a man of peculiar fitness for the position, is its President, and we advise his re appointment.

#### CENTENARY COLLEGE,

At Jackson, La., is doing an excellent work for the higher education of boys and young men. Its faculty, increased by the addition of Rev. D. M. Rush (a distinguished graduate of the Southern University), in the chair of mathematics and natural science, and Prof. A. G. Miller in the preparatory department, is now ample, strong, and apt to teach. The last commencement was brilliant, indicating a most satisfactory and prosperous session. This college is performing an important office in sending many of its graduates into the ministry. To accomplish its purpose the college needs an endowment, as tuition fees are generally insufficient to carry on such an institution. An endowment resolution was passed at our last session, but the meagre results show us to be more generous in promises than faithful in performances. In view of all circumstances we believe the prospects of Centenary College to be brighter than they have been for years. we recommend the re-appointment of Rev. C.

G. Andrews, D. D., President of this college.

E. H. MOUNGER, Chairman.

This report was amended by the adoption of the following resolutions:

1. That in view of the great scarcity of proper male schools, we recommend the establishment of high schools for boys in the several Districts, these to co-operate as preparatory schools in connection with Centenary College.

2. The we, the pastors of the Mississippi Conference, will, on our own motions, in the month of February next, take up a collection in behalf of Centenary College, and remit the amounts to President Andrews, at Jackson, La.

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

To the Bishop and Members of the Mississippi Conference:

The Committee on Religious Literature would report that they have carefully examined the several communications referred to them by the Conference on a former day, and regret that they cannot express their unqualified approval of those communications or the several matters to which they pertain.

The Committee would first direct attention to "The Christian Advocate," published in New Orleans, La., by the Rev R. J. Harp, and edited by the Rev. L. Parker, D. D., and commend it to every one, within and without the church. The Committee can use only words of praise concerning the editorial management of the "Advocate." They know of no other paper whose editorials are so uniformly able and sound, and so frequently eloquent; and they hope that the editor will at some early day collect those contributions to sacred literature and publish them in book form. The publisher's department has much which merits approval; the material used is good, and the workmanship excellent; but your committee doubt the propriety of some advertisements and illustrations which are inserted in the columns of the Advocate, and would remind the publisher of the resolutions adopted at our last Annual Conference. Your committee rejoice at the increased prosperity of our Advocate, and express the earnest hope that that prosperity may wax till the most sanguine expectations are fully realized.

Our Sunday School literature and periodicals deserve more than mere mention. The "Sunday School Magazine," the "Visitor" and "Our Little People," now under the control of the Rev. W. G. E. Cunningham, D. D., maintain the high grade established for them by the late editor, Rev. A. G. Hay

good, D. D. Every family, as well as every Sunday School, should be supplied with them.

As true Methodists, we are anxious to see our Publishing House at Nashville, Tenn., fulfill "the mission for which it was established," but on which it has so long failed to enter; and as true Methodists, we pledge the house our patronage in the future just as in the past, trying, however, to be more liberal, and always to send the cash with our orders.

Your committee regret they have no communication from the Rev. Dr. A. T. Bledsoe, editor of the "Southern Review," but his silence cannot prevent the utterance of the estimate of him as one of the profoundest thinkers of the age, and a hearty appreciation of the Review, which, by his untiring energy and perseverance he has continued to publish, amid discouragements and under disadvantages of many kinds. Our preachers and laymen should subscribe for the Review, and read it with close attention.

Your committee hail the rapid advance of our literature as a sure sign of the progressing culture and intelligence of our people, who still hold to the true faith in Christ and maintain the fervent zeal and piety of Methodism.

TOM. L. MELLEEN, Chairman.

This report was amended by the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That we regard the Nashville Christian Advocate as a useful church paper, and express the hope that Methodists will continue to extend to it their support; and that the members of this Conference will continue to commend it to their congregations.

S. B. WATTS.

F. M. FEATHERSTUN.

## REPORT OF JOINT BOARD OF FINANCE.

To the Bishop and Members of the Mississippi Conference:

The Joint Board of Finance respectfully report that they have received the sum of \$900 65 on account of the Bishop's fund, being just 65 cents in excess of the assessment. They have appropriated the sum of \$50 to defray the traveling expenses of Bishop W. M. Wightman, and the residue, \$850 65, they have appropriated to the support of the Bishops.

The assessment for the Conference fund was \$2,500. The Joint Board have received \$1,712 10 from the various charges, and the further sum of \$79 55 from Rev. H. H. Montgomery, for account of Rev. W. P. Barton, the trustee of the Van Houten

Trust Fund, making a total of \$1,791 65, which, although in excess of the receipts of last year, by \$183 05, is \$708 35 less than the assessments. The sum of \$1791 65 we have distributed among the several claimants, as follows.

CLAIMANTS.	TO WHOM PAID.	AM'T.
W. Spillman,	J. A. Ellis,	\$ 18 20
Mrs. Vernon Johnson,	P. A. Johnson,	76 80
Mrs. D. Dawson,	W. H. Watkins,	18 20
Mrs. W. C. Haney,	J. Nicholson,	72 80
Mrs. Thompson and 5 children,	J. C. Brogan,	127 40
Mrs. Wiggins and child,	R. Bradley,	91 00
Mrs. W. W. Drake and children,	W. L. C. Hunnicutt,	72 80
Mrs. Berry and children,	H. P. Lewis,	109 20
Mrs. R. J. Jones and children,	R. J. Jones,	109 20
Mrs. Redding and children,	J. M. Weems,	109 20
Mrs. L. Campbell,	D. M. Rush,	76 80
Mrs. P. Cooper,	I. W. Cooper,	72 80
J. B. Higginbotham,	N. B. Young,	72 80
Mrs. Deborah Johnson,	J. G. Guice,	18 20
Mrs. B. M. Drake,	W. L. C. Hunnicutt,	72 80
Mrs. Herbert,	T. B. Holloman,	18 20
Mrs. Wm. McCormick,	R. J. Jones,	36 40
John G. Jones,	Self,	109 25
Mrs. Thomas Nixon,	C. F. Gillespie,	72 80
Wm. Finn,	Self,	72 80
R. Lambuth's child,	E. H. Mounger,	18 20
Peter Green's two children,	H. P. Lewis,	36 40
Bro. Simms' child,	R. T. Davis,	18 20
James Shanks,	D. A. Little,	36 40
Joseph Nicholson,	Self,	72 80
Jesse McKay,	W. H. Leith,	109 20
Andrew Day,	A. B. Nicholson,	36 40
E. R. Strickland,	H. P. Lewis,	36 40

Total, \$1791 65

The Board estimate the amounts necessary to meet the claims upon this Conference during the ensuing year, as follows: For the Bishop's Fund, \$900; and for the Conference Fund \$2,100, and distribute the same among the several Districts as follows:

DISTRICTS.	BISHOP'S FUND.	CONFERENCE FUND.
Vicksburg,	\$165	\$350
Jackson	180	400
Brandon	75	175
Brookhaven,	165	350
Woodville,	65	200

Sea Shore	50	125
Meridian,	125	325
Summit,	75	175
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Total,	\$900	\$2,100

The Board have made these assessments upon an equitable basis, and hope the Conference, as well as the membership generally, may be satisfied with the apportionment. The Conference Fund has been made lower than usual, in order that the full amount may be collected and brought up to the next session of this Conference.

R. D. NORSWORTHY, Ch'mn.

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE STATE OF THE CHURCH.

The committee report as follows;

While many embarrassments have attended the labors of the year, we feel no hesitancy in reporting the church in a healthy and flourishing condition. Financial distress, the excitement of a political canvass, and a general paralysis of our commercial and industrial interests have in great manner affected the cause of religion. In some portions of our territory preachers have found inadequate support, and people have struggled with adversity, but out of all, by faith and grace, the church has come with strength and hope. With few exceptions there have been revivals throughout the Conference, and our preachers have labored with great acceptability.

It is especially noticeable that the camp-meeting, a power in the heroic days of Methodism, has been revived and graciously used as an evangelistic agency.

It is also gratifying to note that the number of Sunday School Missionary Societies is largely in excess of last year. We cannot too strongly commend this advance movement. It has largely increased our receipts for missions.

The committee note with pleasure the existence of several organizations among the ladies of the church, called Aid Societies, which, in the repairing and erecting of churches and parsonages, have rendered noble assistance. We reconfirm the formation of these societies in all our charges.

Your committee find that our membership has increased 456 during the past year; that 821 adults and 1,014 infants have been baptized. The collections for the missions are equal to those of last year, while the collections for Conference claimants are greater. But we notice with regret the unusually large deficit in the salary account reported by many of the ministers.

In business transactions such deficits would be fatal, and with us they are serious. As our preachers have no claim for arrearages, we are not in doubt concerning who will be most embarrassed. A reasonable salary is vital to the proper maintenance of a preacher in his calling, and without it he cannot faithfully labor.

We submit the following resolution :

Resolved, That the Joint Board of Finance be directed to appoint from their number a committee to consider the amount, cause and remedy for the deficits in salaries and other receipts, and write an address to the churches, through the New Orleans Christian Advocate.

J. M. WEEMS, Ch'mn.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FRATERNITY.

Whereas, a Joint Commission, invested with plenary power and representing the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church South, have with great unanimity and fairness established a basis of fraternity between the two connections by a recognition of the equality of both bodies as legitimate and rightful claimants to the history, doctrines, usages and forms of government of the original Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America, organized under the direction of John Wesley, in the city of Baltimore, in 1784; and 2d, By such <sup>an</sup> adjustment of pecuniary claims as shall forever quiet all controversy growing out of all property held by either connection; It is therefore

Resolved by the Mississippi Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, That we heartily endorse the decision of the said commissioners, and pledge ourselves to abide by the same.

W. H. WATKINS,  
J. G. JONES,  
W. E. M. LINFIELD.

NATCHEZ, Miss., Dec. 4, 1876.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON BIBLE CAUSE.

Your Committee on the Bible Cause beg leave to report that they have canvassed the subject of circulating the Sacred Scriptures as thoroughly as they could with the limited means they had at hand.

The Southwestern Bible Society have colporteurs in the bounds of this Conference, and they report that they have visited 2,239 white families, and about the same number of colored families, and have found 178 white families, and 953 colored without the Bible.

Our Blessed Savior represents himself as coming into the world to seek as well as to save the lost. We did not choose Him, but He chose us. No man seeks the Gospel or the Bible, but the Bible and the Gospel seek every man. The responsibility is upon us to lay the sacred volume on the centre-table of every destitute family, whether white or black. The Bible can be had from the Southwestern Bible Society, for the destitute, with or without money. If, then, with this aid, the ministers of the different denominations of the Church would unite in a systematic effort, this whole work might be done in one year.

We recommend to the Conference the adoption of the following resolutions:

1. That we heartily co-operate with the Southwestern Bible Society, and will extend to it all the aid we can to enable it to accomplish its purpose.

2. That we advise each member of this Conference to present to his congregation the Bible cause, and take up collections therefor.

BASCOM T. PEARSON, Ch'mn.

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The Committee on Sunday Schools beg leave to submit the following report:

Number of Sunday Schools 187; officers and teachers 1,163; scholars 7,287; volumes in library 17,112; "Visitors" taken 1,210; Magazines taken 473; "Lesson Papers" taken 2,237; "Our Little People" taken 1,682; money expended \$1,730 30.

Your committee note with gratitude a marked increase in every branch of the Sunday School work, and trust for an increased effort during the Conference year on the part of pastors and Sunday School officers and teachers, and all interested in the great responsibility of the Sabbath School work.

We recommend, 1st, Increased pastoral instruction. 2d, A united support of the Sunday School Lesson System, edited by W. G. E. Cunningham, Secretary. 3d, The introduction, where practicable, of books that pertain to Methodist history and church polity. 3d, That our schools be continued without intermission, through summer and winter.

L. P. BROWN, Sec.

J. T. HEARD, Ch'mn.

## REPORT OF BOARD OF MISSIONS.

NATCHEZ, Dec. 2d, 1876.

Were we sentimentally to regard the burning missionary spirit which is intensifying and extending itself in the heart of

universal Christendom, and likewise the onward march of the missionary hosts in all lands, we should be transported into ecstasies of joy and of hope. The Church of God in all the earth is fired with unwonted missionary zeal, and is sending forth the heralds of the cross to wake from deadly sleep the nations that sit in darkness and the shadow of death. In surveying the foreign missionary operations of our own Southern Methodist Church, we find much cause for gratification at the progress she is making, even in these times of great financial scarcity, in spreading the Gospel in China, in South America, in Mexico and among the Indians of our own country.

We are pleased to be able further to state that the work of home missions in the Mississippi Conference has not fallen below its former status. Our receipts of money for foreign and domestic missions have been about the same for each as were the receipts of last year. The Secretary has collected and paid to the Treasurer, for foreign missions \$1,464 30, and for domestic missions \$1,514 50. At our last Conference the Board made appropriations for fourteen missions, all of which, with slight exceptions, have been faithfully served during the year. The sum of their appropriations was \$1,900, of which amount only about eighty-five per cent. has been collected by the different charges in the Conference. For particulars in verification of this statement, we refer to the report of the Statistical Secretary, published herewith.

The Board have assessed the several districts in the Conference for foreign and domestic missions the same amounts as were assessed last year, viz:

DISTRICTS.	FOREIGN MISSIONS.	DOMESTIC MISSIONS.
Jackson .....	\$450 .....	\$540
Vicksburg .....	425 .....	500
Woodville .....	225 .....	290
Brookhaven.....	375 .....	450
Brandon.....	300 .....	360
Summit .....	225 .....	300
Meridian.....	325 .....	400
Seashore .....	150 .....	180

They request the presiding elders to be prompt and careful in distributing the amounts assessed to the Districts among the several charges, and the preachers to be diligent and faithful in collecting the amounts allotted to them.

W. L. C. HUNNICUTT, Sec.

## VAN HOUTEN BEQUEST FUND.

H. H. Montgomery reported that he had collected \$78 55 as interest on above fund, and had paid it over to the Joint Board of Finance.

## HISTORY OF THE MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE.

It was Resolved, That the Presiding Elders be and they are hereby appointed to bring the matter of the publication of our Conference History, by the Rev. John G. Jones, now ready for the press, before their Quarterly Conferences, on the first round, and receive subscriptions for the same, and forward the subscriptions to Rev. J. A. B. Jones, Port Gibson, Miss., according to the plan adopted last year.

## RESOLUTIONS OF THANKS.

Be it Resolved by the Mississippi Annual Conference, now in session, That we, the members thereof, highly appreciating the generous hospitality of the good people of the city of Natchez, do hereby tender to them our grateful acknowledgment of their Christian kindness and liberality, and pray that the blessing of God may ever abide amongst them and their children.

Resolved, That we tender our thanks to the steamers Pargoud, Lee, Katie and Natchez for the consideration shown and favors rendered to the members of this Conference in facilitating their journey to and from this city.

Resolved, That we gratefully recognize the attentions and assistance of the Natchez and Fayette, and the Vicksburg and Meridian Railroads, shown the members of this body.

Resolved, That the members of this Conference appreciate the courtesy of the NACHEZ DEMOCRAT in publishing the proceedings of the Conference, and furnishing copies daily.

C. K. MARSHALL,

W. H. WATKINS,

C. G. ANDREWS,

J. T. HEARD,

R. D. NORSWORTHY,

C. B. GALLOWAY.

## PUBLICATION OF MINUTES.

T. L. Mellen was appointed a committee to superintend the publication and distribution of the minutes of the present session.

## SHARON FEMALE COLLEGE.

Conference granted permission to the Trustees of this College to dispose of it and use the funds for the erection of a parsonage.

## JOINT BOARD OF FINANCE.

CLERICAL—R. D. Norworthy, W. B. Lewis, D. C. Langford, H. P. Lewis, B. Jones, W. W. Hurst, D. A. Little and J. B. K. Smith.

LAY—W. L. Nugent, T. L. Mellen, F. D. Brame, C. S. Stewart, I. V. Enochs, W. M. Thornton, S. B. Watts and I. P. Carter.

## VISITING COMMITTEES.

CENTENARY COLLEGE—W. L. C. Hunnicutt, W. E. M. Linfield, T. L. Mellen, J. T. Heard and T. Reed.

WHITWORTH FEMALE COLLEGE—C. B. Galloway, W. L. C. Hunnicutt, B. Jones, W. L. Nugent and I. V. Enochs.

PORT GIBSON COLLEGIATE ACADEMY—E. H. Mounger, T. B. Holloman, W. B. Lewis and T. L. Mellen.

EAST MISSISSIPPI FEMALE COLLEGE—H. R. Singleton, T. S. West, S. T. Taylor, H. Terrall and B. R. Carradine.

## REPORT OF TREASURER OF MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

W. H. Watkins, Treasurer, in account with Missionary Society  
Mississippi Annual Conference:

To amount from Jackson District.....	\$256 00
“ “ “ Vicksburg “ .....	250 25
“ “ “ Brookhaven “ .....	231 70
“ “ “ Meridian “ .....	228 05
“ “ “ Woodville “ .....	122 35
“ “ “ Brandon “ .....	136 25
“ “ “ Summit “ .....	115 00
“ “ “ Sea Shore “ .....	95 85
“ balance on hand last Report.....	163 73
“ amount from other sources.....	7 00
“ amount overdrawn.....	51 32

---

\$1657 50

—CREDIT—

By amount paid W. D. Dominick, Vernon	
Mission.....	\$ 42 50
By am't pd. R. Bradley, Thomaston Mission	63 75
“ “ P. Howard, Bogue Chitto “	127 50
“ “ H.P. Denham Port Vincent “	127 50
“ “ C. R. Benson, Hammond “	170 00
“ “ Lyman Carley, Union “	170 00
“ “ T. B. Walden, Enterprise “	170 00
“ “ J. C. Williams, Ellisville “	63 75
“ “ R. J. Parker, Taylorville “	63 75
“ “ P.C. Wimbush, Chickasaha and Green. “	127 50
“ “ J. O. Napier, Westville “	63 75
“ “ J. S. Hutton, Sunflower “	85 00
“ “ Thos. Price, Sea Shore District	212 50
“ “ J. L. Forsythe, Woodville “	170 00—\$1657 50

Besides the above amounts, the following have passed thro' my hands to to Treasurer of Foreign Board:

From Jackson District.....	\$399 40
From Vicksburg District.....	206 00
From Woodville District.....	134 50
From Summit District.....	100 75
From Brookhaven District.....	202 75
From Brandon District.....	99 10
From Meridian District.....	214 55
From Sea Shore District.....	63 75
From other sources.....	2 25—\$1423 05

W. H. WATKINS, Treas.

NATCHEZ, Dec. 2d, 1876.

## APPOINTMENTS.

JACKSON DISTRICT—W. B. Hines, Presiding Elder. <sup>2</sup>

Jackson Station—C. B. Galloway. <sup>4</sup>

Madison—D. C. Langford. <sup>1</sup>

Pearl River—H. H. Montgomery. <sup>1</sup>

Sharon—R. Bradley. <sup>2</sup>

Camden and Soule—W. C. Black. <sup>2</sup>

Dover—V. H. Nelson. <sup>2</sup>

Yazoo—J. H. Shelton. <sup>3</sup>

Yazoo City—R. D. Norsworthy. <sup>4</sup>

Jackson Circuit—Supplied by T. M. Ward. <sup>1</sup>

Silver Creek—J. W. Ellison. <sup>1</sup>

Brownsville—W. E. Ballard. <sup>1</sup>

Canton—W. E. M. Linfield. <sup>2</sup>

Missionary to China—J. W. Lambuth. <sup>1 2</sup>

Special Agent Publishing House—R. Abbey.

WOODVILLE DISTRICT—J. L. Forsythe, Presiding Elder. <sup>2</sup>

Woodville—E. H. Mounger. *Halloway*

Wilkinson—F. Ball. <sup>1</sup>

Buffalo—W. W. Simmons. <sup>1</sup>

Bayou Sara—C. D. Cecil. <sup>2</sup>

Concord—D. M. Rush. <sup>1</sup>

Jackson and Pipkin—C. G. Andrews. <sup>2</sup>

Clinton—J. W. McLaurin. <sup>2</sup>

East Feliciana—I. B. Robertson. <sup>1</sup>

Centenary College—C. G. Andrews, Pres't.

SUMMIT DISTRICT—J. A. Godfrey, Presiding Elder. <sup>2</sup>

Summit—G. F. Thompson. <sup>1</sup>

Magnolia—H. P. Lewis. <sup>2</sup>

China Grove—P. Howard. <sup>1</sup>

Franklinton—R. T. Davis. <sup>2</sup>

Covington—M. B. Sharbrough, G. T. Vickers, Sup. <sup>2</sup>

Amite City—A. J. Coleman. <sup>1</sup>

St. Helena—J. S. Parker. <sup>1</sup>

Amite Circuit—J. Ritchie. <sup>1</sup>

Bogue Chitto Mission—E. A. Flowers.

Meadville—B. F. Jones, C. C. Watkins, Sup. <sup>1</sup>

East Baton Rouge—L. Kendall. <sup>1 2</sup>

Springfield Mission—D. A. Givens.

BROOKHAVEN DISTRICT—W. L. C. Hunnicutt, Presiding Elder.

Brookhaven—J. T. Heard. <sup>2</sup>

Beauregard and Wesson—T. C. Bradford, E. F. Mullins, Sup.

Scotland—J. Lusk.  
 Brandywine—C. W. Campbell. 4  
 Hazlehurst—J. M. Weems. 3  
 Providence—A. M. Barrington.  
 Georgetown—P. A. Johnson.  
 Crystal Springs—B. Jones.  
 Raymond—B. T. Pearson.  
 Spring Ridge—W. D. Dominick.  
 Bayou Pierre—W. Wadsworth.  
 Whitworth Female College—H. F. Johnson, President. ✓

BRANDON DISTRICT—W. H. Leith, Presiding Elder. 2

Brandon—B. R. Carradine.  
 Fannin—W. W. Hurst. 4  
 Raleigh—R. A. Sibley. 2  
 Morton and Forest—J. J. Smylie. 3  
 Philadelphia—L. Carley.  
 Lake—J. D. Hayes. 2  
 Trenton—J. H. Holland. 2 over 3  
 Newton—R. B. Downer.  
 Walnut Grove—N. B. Young.  
 Hillsboro—C. McDonald.  
 Union—Supplied by N. M. Clark.  
 Carthage—T. W. Adams.  
 Homewood—J. N. Williams.

MERIDIAN DISTRICT—J. A. Ellis, Presiding Elder. 4

Meridian—R. J. Jones. 2  
 DeKalb—J. M. Gann.  
 Marion—T. Y. Armstrong.  
 Enterprise Station—H. R. Singleton.  
 Enterprise Circuit—T. B. Walden. 2  
 Shubuta—T. S. West. 3  
 McGowen—B. S. Rayner.  
 Paulding—D. P. Bradford.  
 Ellisville Mission—(to be appointed.)  
 Spring Hill—J. C. Brogan.  
 Wayne—D. A. Little. 4  
 Waynesboro—D. G. W. Ellis.  
 Clark Mission—A. L. McBryde.  
 Lauderdale Mission—Sup. J. T. Graham.  
 East Mississippi Female College—J. W. Adkisson, Pres't, J.  
 A. Ellis, Agent.

SEASHORE DISTRICT—Thos. Price, Presiding Elder.

Moss Point—J. B. K. Smith.  
 Ocean Springs—A. B. Nicholson.

Pearlinton—I. W. Cooper.  
 White Plains—D. Merchant.  
 Pascagoula Mission—C. W. Calhoon.  
 Chickasaw Mission—Supplied by T. C. Wimbush.  
 Soule Mission—L. P. Meador.  
 Rankin—J. H. Evans.  
 Westville—G. W. Brown.  
 Mount Carmel—D. W. Dillehay.  
 Columbia—C. J. Phillips.  
 Enon—J. A. Vance.

VICKSBURG DISTRICT—F. M. Featherstun, Presiding Elder.

Vicksburg—W. H. Watkins.

Warren—F. M. Williams.

Sunflower Mission—Supplied by J. S. Hutton.

Clover Hill—C. A. Powell.

Chotard Landing—(to be supplied).

Rolling Fork—(to be supplied).

Mount Olivet—L. R. Featherstun.

Rocky Springs—J. W. Sandell.

Cayuga—C. F. Gillespie.

Port Gibson—T. B. Holloman.

Fayette—W. B. Lewis, A. B. Stewart.

Kingston Circuit—J. P. Drake.

Natchez—R. S. Woodward.

Port Gibson Collegiate Academy—J. A. B. Jones, Pres't.

TRANSFERRED—H. W. Featherstun, to Los Angeles Conference: U. B. Phillips to East Texas Conference: E. E. Hamilton, Memphis Conference.

Jackson Land  
282,711  
7,554,000

Franklin

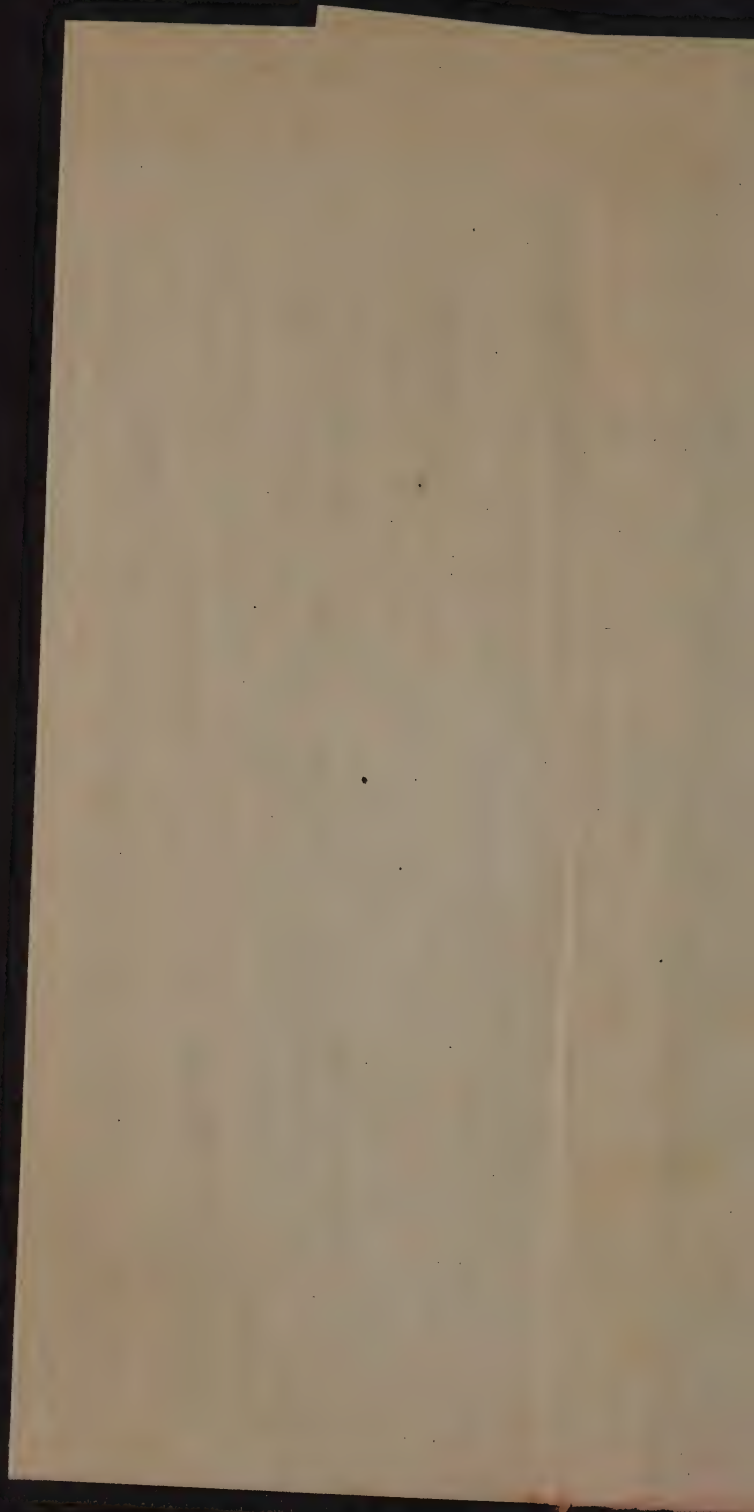


Johnston's List  
227, 25  
25  
2,554, 25

George

JACKSON DISTRICT.

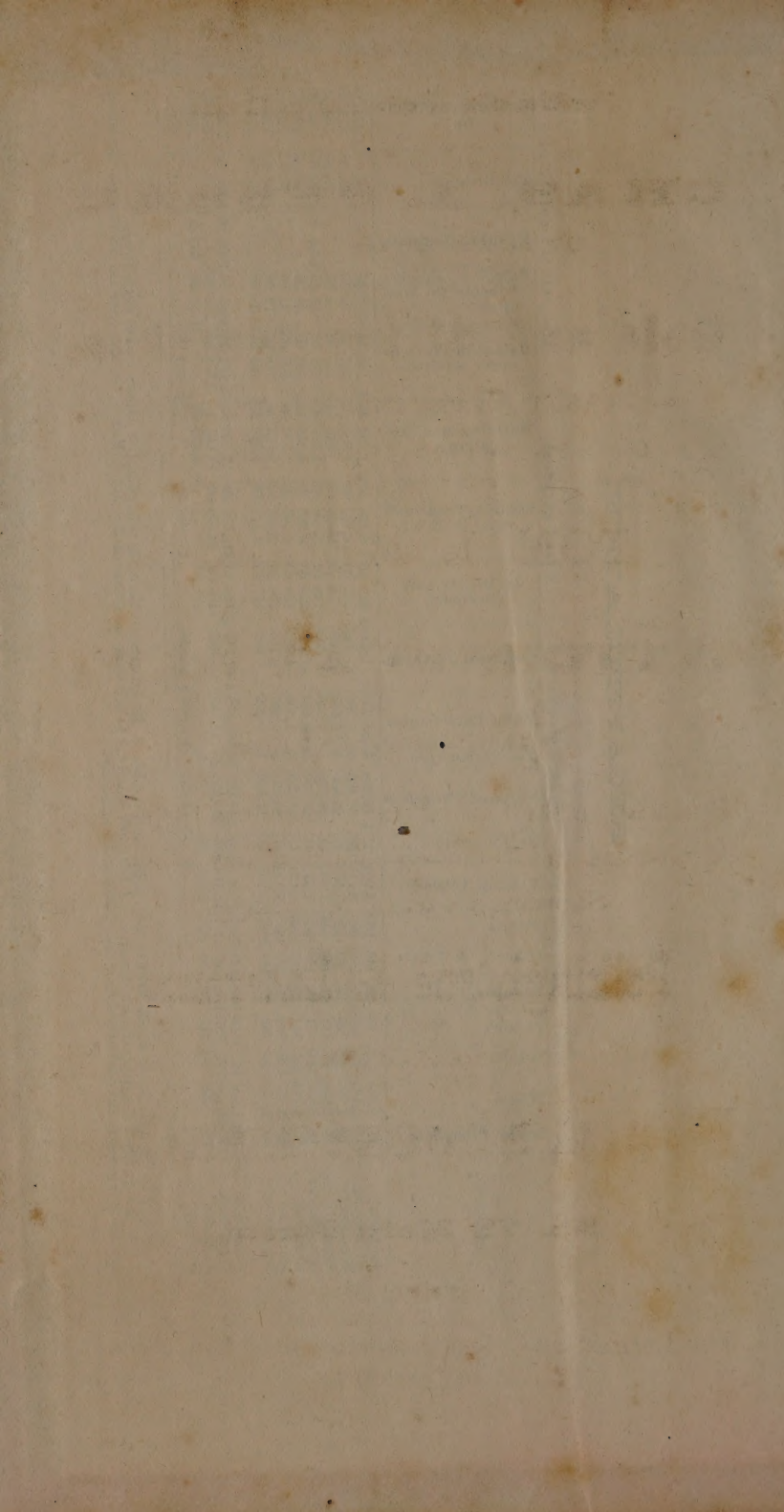
Total.....	30,277.8	95,150.27	151,087.3305	141.45	41	17,980	1
8000							
6000				1,028.25	91.65	83.30	
6000				1,028.25	91.65	83.30	
						92.85	
						42.70	
						41.00	
						22.00	
						780.00	
						319.00	
						4655.30	
						3071.75	
						1383.91	



# RECAPITULATION.

MEMBERS	BAPTISTS.	SUNDAY SCH'LS			CHURCH PROPERTY.			MONEY EXPENDED,			DISCIPLINARY COLLECTIONS															
		Infants.	Adults	Whites	Local Preachers	Number.	Officers & Teachers.	Pupils	Vols. in Library	No. Churches	Value of Churches	No. Parsonages.	Value Parsonages.	Colleges, &c. value	In the Sunday Schools.	Salaries Preachers and P. E.'s	Building and Repairing,	Raised in Churches for Missions	Raised in Sunday Schools for Missions.	By other Methods.	For Bishops	Conference Claimants.				
Jackson	17	2,314	142	143	903	21	143	21	143	21	143	21	143	21	143	21	143	21	143	21	143	21	143			
Vicksburg.	18	2,185	24	101	118	620	2,711	26	80,400	5	7,700	31,360	210	00	6,857	00	4,605	00	397	50	81	50	315	45		
Woodville.	19	1,516	55	140	86	428	570	21	25,800	4	5,600	80,000	74	10	2,354	70	845	00	227	20	80	15	190	45		
Summit	18	2,949	77	151	31	166	998	1,960	44	26,700	4	1,900	600	149	30	3,304	85	1,663	00	172	50	43	25	100	00	
Brookhaven	19	2,596	143	71	18	151	964	1,437	35	36,650	3	6,500	61,500	339	00	6,285	00	2,656	00	391	00	58	30	118	90	
Brandon	30	3,348	105	141	30	179	1266	2,160	47	33,050	3	1,300	1,800	142	00	4,495	50	503	10	203	80	31	25	77	75	
Meridian	29	3,940	180	162	25	169	1081	2,099	61	26,400	4	3,800	9,750	205	00	5,888	00	2,413	00	378	00	72	50	100	00	
Sea Shore.	30	2,778	95	150	27	151	1087	3,205	41	17,980	1	800	600	141	45	3,412	75	1,028	25	135	55	63	00	81	70	
Total 1876.	170	21,626	821	1014	1163	7287	17,112	306	249,530	32	\$38,650	\$187,510	\$1730	30	\$42,752	30	\$15,536	90	\$2,431	10	\$563	60	\$900	65	1712	10
Total 1875.	153	21,168	777	797	1067	6474	14,513	283	293,950	27	41,740	214,343	1476	00	43,570	80	10,743	35	2,571	00	510	60	1608	60	1608	60
Increase.	17	458	44	217	12	96	813	5	254	30	254	30	254	30	254	30	254	30	254	30	254	30	254	30	254	30
Decrease																										

Books to the amount of \$1,067.10 have been sold; 1,417 copies of the Advocate taken; 43 other Church papers and 66 periodicals.  
N. B.—In the Recapitulation the amounts of Bishop's Fund are taken from accounts of the Joint Board; in the General Tables the amounts are from reports to the Statistical Secretary; hence the variance.



—AT THE—

**Reliable Jewelry Store**

—OF—

**CHAS. A. BESSAC,**

97 Main Street, Natchez,

Can be found a Complete Stock of

**Gold and Silver Watches,**

Jewelry, Clocks, Silver Ware, Etc.

At the Lowest Possible Prices. Repairing done—Prices moderate. All Goods Guaranteed as Represented.

---

**TOM. L. MELLEN,**

**ATTORNEY AT LAW,**

Natchez, Miss.

Practices in the Circuit and Chancery Courts of Adams and Jefferson counties, and in the Supreme Court of Mississippi.

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**Polkinghorne & Lawrence,**

—DEALERS IN—

**Boots, Shoes AND Trunks.**

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NATCHEZ, MISS.

The Largest and Best Assortment of Fine Goods in this city.

# H. M. GASTRELL, HARDWARE, IRON, STOVES,

Improved Agricultural Implements.

**FIRE-ARMS**

**WAGON AND CARRIAGE MATERIALS.**

—SOLE AGENT FOR—

Buck's Brilliant and Charter Oak Stoves.

Genuine Calhoun, Urie and Brinley Plows.

Buckeye and Indianapolis Steam Engines.

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and Hall's Fire-Proof Safes.

All Goods at Lowest Prices Possible. Correspondence solicited.

**Cotton Square, Natchez.**

**Owens' Wonderful Sore Wash and Eye Lotion.**

A QUICK AND INFALLIBLE CURE FOR ALL KINDS OF CHRONIC  
SORES, ULCERS AND CUTANEOUS AFFECTIONS.

**T. E. OWENS, Manufacturer,**

**NATCHEZ, MISS.**

Send for circular.

**READ THIS!**

*Sale of the Wonderful Eye Lotion and Won-  
derful Sore Wash at Home.*

*The sale of Owens' Wonderful Eye Lotion and  
Wonderful Sore Wash exceeds that of any patent  
medicine we handle, or ever handled.*

*A. T. BOWIE & Co.,*

*Proprietors Central Drug Store.*

*Natchez, Jan. 11, 1871.*